

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

December 2004



Many unemployment rates rose more slowly than usual in November

Adams County's unemployment rate did not fall as fast as usual this summer and rose faster than usual in November. Last November's rate was 0.9 percent below typical and this November's rate is 2.2 percent above typical. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate was about as far below year-ago levels as it has been at any point in the last 12 months.

Forest County's unemployment rate rose more gradually than usual in November, leaving it 0.6 percent below the typical November level. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have been below year-ago estimates for 9 of the last 12

months, but not as far below as now (roughly 70 jobs or 43%). Except September, education & health services employment estimates have followed last year's general trends fairly closely.

Langlade County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than usual in November, leaving it 0.4 percent above the typical November level. This is closer to normal than the county's rate has been in the last 12 months. Total nonfarm employment estimates have been within 30 jobs (roughly 1%) of year-ago figures for 10 of the last 12 months.

Lincoln County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than it typically does in November, and matched the typical November rate almost exactly. The construction employment estimate has been below its year-ago lev-

els for the last 12 months, and the current reading (80 jobs or 25% below the year-ago level) is the softest one seen in the last 12 months.

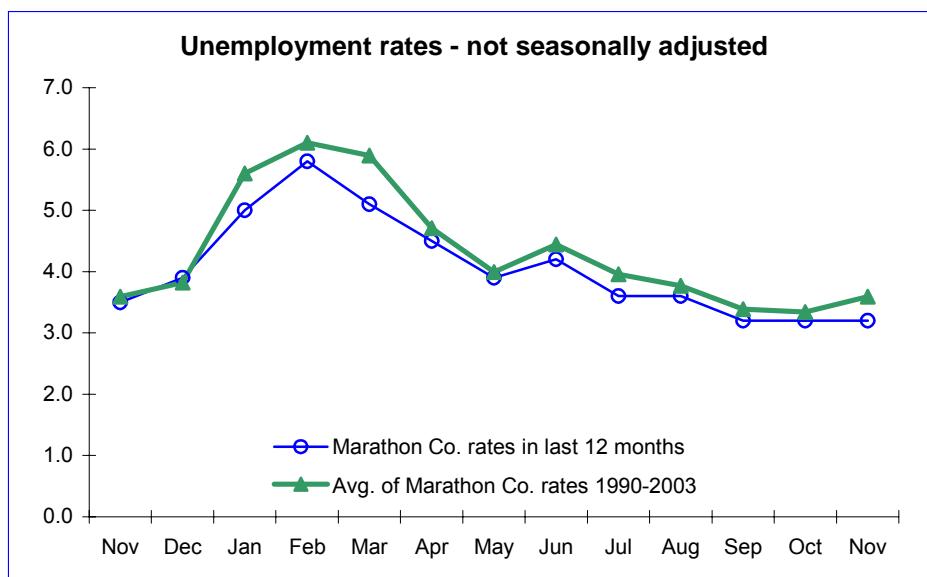
Marathon County's unemployment rate held steady instead of rising as it typically does in November. This left it 0.4 percent below the typical

Portage County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than usual in November and sits 0.3 percent above its typical November level. Seven of the last twelve months' rates have been further above their typical levels. For all of 2004 manufacturing employment estimates have been below year-ago levels. From January through July, the gap between current and year-ago levels appeared to be narrowing. Since August, that gap has been growing. From April through August, retail & wholesale trade employment estimates seemed to lose momentum.

Vilas County's unemployment rate increased just as it typically

does in November, remaining 0.9 percent above its normal level. October-to-November declines in construction employment estimates and in leisure & hospitality employment estimates were largely attributable to seasonal factors.

Wood County's unemployment rate rose just a bit faster than it usually does in November and is now 1.0 percent above its typical November level. The retail & wholesale trade employment estimate rose sharply in November, but not fast enough to keep pace with last year's trend, so the estimate is further below its year-ago level than it has been at any point in the last 12 months. Manufacturing employment estimates remain well below year-ago levels and have not signaled sustained recovery.



November level. The autumn decline in professional & business services employment estimates was later and more gradual this year than last. Retail trade employment estimates had been below year-ago levels since last December, so a November estimate slightly above its year-ago level is somewhat encouraging.

Oneida County's unemployment rate rose more slowly than it usually does in November, leaving it 0.2 percent above the typical November level. This is closer than it has been in 11 of the last 12 months. In May and June, leisure & hospitality employment estimates were about 230-260 jobs (9.1-9.3%) above year-ago levels, while the current estimate is just 70 jobs (3.5%) above last November's estimate.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

		Wisconsin			Adams			Forest			Langlade			Lincoln		
	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	
Total jobs, all industries*	2,872,600	4,500	67,600	3,900	-80	-40	3,300	-20	-90	3,500	-10	30	11,800	-100	-230	
Const, min'g & nat. resources	135,100	-2,700	2,500	260	0	20	140	-10	10	160	0	10	330	-20	-80	
Manufacturing	518,800	-1,000	15,900	450	0	20	330	10	-10	400	10	-30	3,500	-20	-160	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	460,300	12,700	16,700	510	20	0	310	0	10	690	0	40	1,770	10	-30	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	109,700	200	900	130	0	0	160	0	0	190	0	10	410	0	-10	
Financial activities	162,700	500	2,600	90	0	0	100	0	0	210	0	10	810	0	30	
Education & health services	382,600	2,100	8,000	490	0	30	370	-30	10	300	0	20	960	0	0	
Leisure & hospitality	240,600	-9,700	2,400	370	-90	-90	150	-10	-70	220	-10	0	980	-40	10	
Info, prof, bus. & other svrcs	443,100	-3,800	18,800	410	-10	30	190	-10	-20	310	0	0	1,040	-20	10	
Government	419,700	6,200	-200	1,220	0	-30	1,600	30	-20	1,060	-10	-30	2,000	-10	-10	
Civilian Labor Force**	3,112,500	2,600	41,000	8,500	-60	200	4,900	-60	-120	9,500	-60	-270	14,500	-80	-330	
Employed	2,982,500	-640	54,600	7,900	-170	-70	4,700	-80	-90	8,900	-90	-120	13,800	-110	-220	
Unemployed	130,000	3,300	-13,600	620	100	270	260	20	-40	620	30	-150	700	40	-110	
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	0.1	-0.5	7.3	1.3	3.1	5.2	0.4	-0.6	6.6	0.4	-1.3	4.9	0.3	-0.6	
		Marathon			Oneida			Portage			Villas			Wood		
	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Nov 2004	1-month change	1-year change	
Total jobs, all industries*	72,400	800	1,800	18,000	-230	160	34,900	-120	350	7,900	-250	-130	44,300	-10	-360	
Const, min'g & nat. resources	2,900	0	0	1,300	-70	40	1,180	-40	50	930	-40	40	1,740	-90	20	
Manufacturing	18,600	200	700	1,290	0	-110	4,600	-350	-270	390	-10	-50	7,000	-170	-420	
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	15,000	700	300	4,000	30	140	6,500	610	160	1,400	-10	40	6,600	340	-340	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	3,000	0	100	460	-10	0	1,990	0	60	130	0	10	3,400	40	140	
Financial activities	4,900	0	0	540	0	0	4,000	0	130	400	0	20	1,200	0	40	
Education & health services	7,300	0	100	3,100	10	0	3,400	20	160	790	0	20	11,300	0	190	
Leisure & hospitality	4,900	-200	200	2,200	-180	70	3,200	-180	50	1,200	-160	-30	2,800	-80	50	
Info, prof, bus. & other svrcs	7,600	-100	300	2,400	-50	60	3,900	-40	70	580	-30	-50	4,900	-40	140	
Government	8,200	200	100	2,700	20	-30	6,100	-140	-60	2,100	0	-130	5,300	-10	-190	
Civilian Labor Force**	79,400	860	1,820	21,300	-160	130	40,800	-120	540	11,600	50	110	41,500	240	-270	
Employed	76,800	780	2,000	20,200	-330	180	39,200	-160	490	10,900	-180	100	39,500	-20	-160	
Unemployed	2,600	90	-180	1,090	180	-50	1,520	40	50	700	230	10	2,000	260	-110	
Unemployment rate (%)	3.2	0.0	-0.3	5.1	0.9	-0.3	3.7	0.1	0.0	6.1	2.0	0.1	4.8	0.6	-0.3	

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4385, email dan.barnolfe@dwd.wisconsin.gov/oeaf.

